

The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cartridge containing one or more liquid beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge, a compartment containing the one or more liquid beverage ingredients and an outlet for a beverage produced by dilution of the one or more liquid beverage ingredients by the aqueous medium, ~~characterised in that~~ the compartment includes means for controlling dilution of at least a proportion of the one or more liquid beverage ingredients on introduction of the aqueous medium into the compartment, the means for controlling dilution delays dilution of at least a proportion of the one or more liquid beverage ingredients on introduction of the aqueous medium into the compartment, in use, an aqueous medium flow path is established from the inlet to the outlet, the means for delaying dilution comprising a partition which hinders entry of at least a proportion of the one or more liquid beverage ingredients into the aqueous medium flow path, the partition includes four apertures for controllably releasing the at least a proportion of the one or more liquid beverage ingredients into the aqueous medium flow path and the partition comprises a cup-shaped member having an open mouth directed away from the aqueous medium flow path.

Claims 2-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A cartridge as claimed in claim 6 1 wherein the cup-shaped member is annular.

Claim 8 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 7 wherein one or more apertures are provided at or near a base of the cup-shaped member.

Claim 9 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 8 wherein the at least a proportion of the liquid beverage ingredients in the cup-shaped member drain by gravity through the one or more apertures in use.

Claim 10 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 9 wherein the cup-shaped member is spaced from a bottom of the cartridge, such that the aqueous medium flow path passes between the cup-shaped member and the bottom of the cartridge.

Claim 11 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 10 wherein the at least a proportion of the liquid beverage ingredients in the cup-shaped member drain by gravity through the one or more apertures in use vertically downwards into the aqueous medium flow path.

Claim 12 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 comprising an inner member and an outer member, wherein the inner member comprises the cup-shaped member.

Claim 13 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 12 further comprising means for producing a jet of the beverage, wherein said means for producing the jet of the beverage comprises an aperture in the aqueous medium flow path.

Claim 14 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 13 wherein the aperture is delimited by an interface between the inner member and the outer member.

Claim 15 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 14 further comprising at least one inlet for air and means for generating a pressure reduction of the jet of beverage,

whereby, in use, air from the at least one air inlet is incorporated into the beverage as a plurality of small bubbles.

Claim 16 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 15 wherein the at least one air inlet is provided in the inner member downstream of the aperture.

Claim 17 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 16 wherein the at least one air inlet and means for producing a pressure reduction in the jet of beverage produces a foaming of the one or more liquid beverage ingredients of greater than 40%.

Claim 18 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 17 wherein the foaming is greater than 70%.

Claim 19 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 18 wherein the cartridge is disc-shaped.

Claim 20 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 19 wherein the outer member and/or inner member are formed from polypropylene.

Claim 21 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 20 wherein the outer member and/or inner member is formed by injection moulding.

Claim 22 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 21 wherein the liquid beverage ingredient is a concentrated liquid milk composition.

Claim 23 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 22 wherein the concentrated liquid milk contains between 25 and 40% total solids.

Claim 24 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 23 wherein the concentrated liquid milk contains 30% total solids.

Claim 25 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 24 wherein the concentrated liquid milk contains between 0.1 and 12% fat.

Claim 26 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 21 wherein the one or more liquid beverage ingredients are selected from the group of cocoa solids, coffee, tea, sweeteners, cordials, flavourings, alcoholic beverages, flavoured milk, fruit juices, squashes, sauces and desserts.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): A method of dispensing a beverage from a cartridge containing one or more liquid beverage ingredients during an operating cycle, comprising the steps of passing an aqueous medium through the cartridge to form a beverage by dilution of said one or more beverage ingredients, and dispensing the beverage into a receptacle, wherein the one or more liquid ingredients as dispensed has a concentration at the start of the operating cycle of between 30 and 70% total solids and a concentration at the end of the operating cycle of between 1 and 15% total solids.

Claim 287 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the concentration at the start of the operating cycle is between 30 and 35% total solids.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 28 wherein the concentration at the end of the operating cycle is approximately 10% total solids.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the liquid ingredient is concentrated milk.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the concentration at the start of the operating cycle is between 60 and 70% total solids.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the concentration at the end of the operating cycle is between 12 and 15% total solids.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 32 wherein the liquid ingredient contains cocoa solids.

Claim 34 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the concentration at the start of the operating cycle is between 40 and 70% total solids.

Claim 35 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 34 wherein the concentration at the end of the operating cycle is between 1 and 2% total solids.

Claim 36 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 35 wherein the liquid ingredient contains coffee.

Claim 37 (Withdrawn): A method of dispensing a beverage from a cartridge containing one or more liquid beverage ingredients during an operating cycle, comprising the steps of passing an aqueous medium through the cartridge to form a beverage by dilution of said one or more beverage ingredients, and dispensing the beverage into a receptacle, wherein the one or more liquid beverage ingredients is foamed on dispense to a ratio of between 20 and 150%.

Claim 38 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 37 wherein the one or more liquid beverage ingredients are foamed to a ratio between 70 and 100%.

Claim 39 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the one or more liquid beverage ingredients includes one or more of concentrated milk, coffee and cocoa solids.

Claim 40 (Withdrawn): A beverage as produced by the method of claim 27.

Claim 41 (New): A cartridge containing one or more liquid beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge, a compartment containing the one or more liquid beverage ingredients and an outlet for a beverage produced by dilution of the one or more liquid beverage ingredients by the aqueous medium, the compartment includes means for controlling dilution of at least a proportion of the one or more liquid beverage ingredients on introduction of the aqueous medium into the compartment, the means for controlling dilution delays dilution of at least a proportion of the one or more liquid beverage ingredients on introduction of the aqueous medium into the compartment, wherein, in use, an aqueous medium flow path is established from the inlet to the outlet, the means for delaying dilution comprising a partition which hinders entry of at least a proportion of the one or more liquid beverage ingredients into the aqueous medium flow path.

Claim 42 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 41 wherein the partition comprises one or more apertures for controllably releasing the at least a proportion of the one or more liquid beverage ingredients into the aqueous medium flow path.

Claim 43 (New): A cartridge containing one or more liquid beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising:

- an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge;
- a compartment containing the one or more liquid beverage ingredients;
- an outlet for a beverage produced by dilution of the one or more liquid beverage ingredients by the aqueous medium; and

- a cup-shaped member disposed in the compartment and containing at least a portion of the one or more liquid beverage ingredients, the cup-shaped member having an open mouth directed away from an aqueous medium flow path between the inlet and the outlet and having a plurality of feed apertures directed toward the flow path to permit

the one or more liquid beverage ingredients in the cup-shaped member to enter the flow path.

Claim 44 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 43 wherein the flow path includes an inward segment along an underside of the cup-shaped member opposite the open mouth.

Claim 45 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 43 wherein outlet includes an outlet spout and the cup-shaped member surrounds at least a portion of the outlet spout.

Claim 46 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 45 wherein the compartment is bounded in part by a disc-shaped outer member having an open end closed by a lid and the feed apertures are directed toward the lid.

Claim 47 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 45 wherein a manifold is disposed between the inlet and the compartment, the manifold having a plurality of openings directing the aqueous medium toward the outlet spout.

Claim 48 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 46 wherein the plurality of openings of the manifold direct the aqueous medium toward the underside of the cup-shaped member.

Claim 49 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 46 wherein the open mouth of the cup-shaped member faces away from the lid and the inward segment of the flow path is between the underside of the cup-shape member and the lid.

Claim 50 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 49 wherein the cup-shaped member includes an inner wall spaced from the outlet spout and the flow path includes

a segment away from the lid and between the inner wall of the cup-shaped member and the outlet spout and the flow path includes a segment in the outlet spout toward the lid.

Claim 51 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 50 wherein the outlet spout is disposed in a chute having an open end facing the lid, the chute having a sidewall positioned between the outlet spout and the inner wall of the cup-shaped member, and an air inlet being provided between the chute and the outlet spout to permit introduction of air into the beverage when dispensed through the outlet spout.